UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
30 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending August 6, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 3---Cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce and squash are in the relative Best Buy category now. Squash and cucumbers are repeaters, having appeared in the Best Buy class before. Lettuce and eggplant have become plentiful enough this week to be included.

Classified as Good Buys are tomatoes, which were in the Best Buy class last week but dropped to the relatively lower classification this week. They're more plentiful than they have been, but are not at this time as plentiful or as cheap as they are expected to get. Also in the Good Buy class are carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, and peas. In the Good Buy class among fruits are apricots, peaches and small oranges. Fairly Good Buys include potatoes, corn, beans, cantaloups, nectarines, Persian melons, and honeydew melons.

Fair Buys include celery, onions, peppers, Gravenstein apples, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, seedless Thompson grapes, sugar plums, and watermelons.

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Wholesale meat prices were erratic during the past week, with fresh lamb and mutton lower, fresh pork up, and fresh beef unchanged from a week earlier. Trading was slow, and all weights of cow and steer carcasses moved slowly at the same prices as the week before. Ewes also remained unchanged in price, but fresh lamb and smaller mutton carcasses were down $2.00 to $5.00 per hundred pounds. On the other hand, fresh pork ranged from unchanged to $3.00 higher per hundred pounds. Cured pork cuts and fresh veal and calf carcasses remained unchanged from the week before.

Butter was unchanged from last week. Grade A(92 score) remained at 87 cents per pound to dealers, and Grade B(90 score) remained at 77 cents. The supply of butter was fully ample to supply the light demand.

Declining supplies of eggs, rather than increased demand, seemed to be responsible for an increase of 1 cent per dozen on all size eggs. Wholesale prices (established August 2) were 64 to 64½ cents per dozen for Grade A Large; 61 to 61½ cents for Medium A's; 46 to 47½ cents for Small A's, and 55 to 55½ cents per dozen on Grade B Large eggs.

Again this week demand was good for poultry, due to high meat prices, but prices remained unchanged on all classes except broilers under 2¾ pounds and all weights of leghorn fowl. Broilers were up 1 cent per pound at 55 cents, and leghorn fowl under 4 pounds was up 1 cent at 43 cents while leghorn fowl over 4 pounds sold up 1 cent at 44 cents. Young Tom turkeys were unchanged at 72 cents per pound. Domestic rabbits and squabs also remained unchanged, with rabbits bringing 62 to 64 cents, and squabs costing $1.10 to $1.15 per pound on the San Francisco wholesale market.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Aug. 13, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 10--- The week's Best Buys in fruits include plentiful cantaloups, Thompson Seedless grapes, small oranges, and sugar plums.

Peaches can only be classed as a Fairly Good Buy.

Apricots are now past their peak and a Fair Buy, along with apples, berries, Honeydew, Persian and Casaba melons, nectarines, and watermelons.

Best Buys in vegetables are cucumbers in abundant supply, eggplant (reasonably priced), lettuce, and soft squash (particularly Summer and Yellow Crookneck varieties).

Good Buys include snap beans, carrots, cabbage, corn, and peas.

Cauliflower, tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes are all Fairly Good Buys, with celery and dry onions bringing the list to a close as Fair Buys.

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With last week's trading in meats more or less on a hand-to-mouth basis, the market was little changed from the previous week. Generally, supplies were adequate to plentiful on fresh pork and lamb. Beef loins and ribs sold $2.00 to $3.00 higher, and all weights of lamb carcasses were up $2.00. Otherwise, prices were about the same as for the previous week. Beef supplies were mostly of Commercial and Good steer and heifer carcasses. Choice grade veal and calf was scarce, as was good ewe mutton, but very liberal offerings of spring lamb were largely Good and Choice grades.

Butter has dropped 2 to 3 cents since last week. Grade A(92 Score) is 3 cents lower in the San Francisco wholesale market at 84 cents per pound, and Grade B(90 Score) is 2 cents lower at 75 cents per pound. Production hasn't picked up any, but shipments of Mid-western butter have been heavier and demand has been rather slow.

Consumer resistance to high meat prices has helped to boost the price of eggs. Large and medium-sized eggs have been in more demand and have advanced in price. Grade "A" Large eggs are 1-cent higher at 65 to 65-1/2 cents per dozen, and Grade "A" Mediums are 2 cents higher at 63 to 63-1/2 cents. Heavier supplies of small eggs are in slow demand and unchanged in price at 46 to 47-1/2 cents per dozen for Grade "A". Grade "B" Large eggs have benefited by the higher prices on light supplies of Grade "A" eggs and have also gone up 2 cents to 57 to 57-1/2 cents per dozen.

Poultry has continued in good demand at prices little changed from a week ago. Higher egg prices have encouraged producers to hold laying hens on farms, but generally supplies of Leghorn hens have been about equal to the demand. Young chickens have been in especially good demand -- including broilers and fryers -- and have advanced 1 to 2 cents in price. Dressed colored hens are also 1-cent higher, while dressed young tom turkeys are slightly lower at 68 to 72 cents per pound. All other classes have held unchanged in price.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?
(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Aug. 20, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17--- Cantaloups at lower prices are the Best Buy in fruits.

Good Buys include Thompson Seedless grapes, nectarines, small oranges, and watermelons.

Among the fruits classed as Fairly Good Buys this week are Gravenstein apples, raspberries, blackberries, figs, peaches, and plums.

The week's Best Buys in vegetables are cucumbers, lettuce, and eggplant.

Good Buys are carrots, cabbage, corn, and soft squash.

Cauliflower is slightly higher but still a Fairly Good Buy, along with potatoes, red onions, peas, and tomatoes.

In the Fair Buy group will be found Kentucky Wonder and Blue Lake snap beans, celery, dry onions, peppers.

Sweetpotatoes are lower priced but are still rather expensive.

MORE

Last week's wholesale trading in meats was little changed from the past several weeks, despite meat market boycotts. Pork and beef slaughter was curtailed somewhat, but lamb slaughter remained about the same as for the past ten days. Liberal supplies of Good and Choice offerings of lamb were in fair demand along with a larger supply of ewe mutton at unchanged prices. Demand improved some for fairly liberal supplies of fresh pork. And prices advanced around $1.00 on both fresh pork cuts and cured cuts. Refined lard in one-pound cartons went up 50 cents per hundredweight. Beef supplies were comprised largely of Commercial and Good steer and heifer beef and held unchanged in price. But heavier supplies of Canner and Utility cow beef dropped $2.00 to $4.00.

Prices have dropped 1-cent on butter. Grade A(92 Score) is now quoted on the wholesale market at 81 to 83 cents per pound, and grade B(90 Score) is 74 cents. The market has been unsettled, with the light supplies ample for demand. For the week ended August 12, creamery butter production increased in all areas of the country except the west, where production declined 4 percent.

Egg prices have continued their upward trend in face of lighter supplies and stimulation in demand. Grade "A" Large eggs are 1-cent higher at 66 to 66-1/2 cents per dozen, and Grade "A" Mediums are 2 cents higher at 65 to 65-1/2 cents. Grade "B" Large are up 4 cents at 61 to 61-1/2 cents per dozen. Grade "A" Small eggs are unchanged at 46 to 47-1/2 cents.

Poultry has been in more demand because of high meat prices. But supplies have been about ample for needs. Prices are advancing. Broilers are 1-cent higher alive, and 2 to 3 cents per pound higher on dressed weights. Dressed fryers and roasters are up 2 cents; dressed colored hens are 1-cent higher; rabbits are 1 to 2 cents higher; and dressed squabs are 5 cents higher. Leghorn hens are in heavier supply and have dropped 1-cent per pound.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Aug. 27, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 24--- Fruits that may be tagged as "Best Buys" this week include grapes and blackberries (in liberal supply), watermelons (lower priced), and small oranges.

Marked for "Fair Buys" are moderate supplies of lower priced apples, cantaloups (a shade higher), figs (lower), peaches (slightly higher), and plums.

Among the vegetables, cucumbers, eggplant and lettuce head the list of "Best Buys," followed by snap beans, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, red onions, potatoes, squash (slightly higher), and tomatoes.

Celery, corn, yellow onions, peas and peppers are the week's "Fair Buys."

Sweetpotatoes are still high priced but lower than last week.

MORE

Last week's meat slaughter in the San Francisco-Bay Area continued rather light in volume. Steer and heifer beef was comprised of mostly Commercial and Good grades, while cow beef ran to Canner and Utility grades. The supply of veal was largely Commercial and Good grades and was about equal to demand. Spring lamb was plentiful, but ewe mutton was scarce. There was a fairly broad movement of fresh pork under an improved demand, while demand was slow for smoked hams and slab bacon. As for prices, beef and veal held unchanged in the wholesale market; all grades and weights of lamb dropped $2.00; and fresh pork loins and picnics went up $2.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight. Refined lard packed in one-pound cartons also advanced another 50 cents per hundredweight.

Butter prices have continued a downward trend in the San Francisco wholesale market. Grade A(92 Score) is 2½ to 4½ cents lower at a quotation of 78½ cents per pound. Grade B(90 Score) is 1-cent lower at 73 cents. West Coast production is still on the decline, but local receipts and supplies have been fully ample for demand.

Eggs have held unchanged in price from last week, with Grade "A" Large quoted in the wholesale market at 66 to 66½ cents per dozen, Mediums at 65 to 65½ cents, Smalls at 46 to 47½ cents, and Grade "B" Large eggs at 61 to 61½ cents per dozen. Demand has been moderate for the slightly heavier receipts.

Moderate receipts and supplies of poultry have continued in good demand. Young chickens have been in especially good demand and have gone up in price. Broilers are 1-cent per pound higher than last week on both live and dressed weights, while fryers and roasters are 2 cents higher. Old roosters are also up 1-cent per pound in the wholesale market. All other classes are unchanged.

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